

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6 March 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, BGI *RTA*  
THROUGH : Chief, Geography Division *N*  
SUBJECT : Seminar with Academic Geographers on Soviet Union

1. The following comments are in response to your request that we suggest a theme that might be appropriate for a seminar between academic geographers and Agency personnel interested in internal developments in the USSR.

2. In our contacts with OCI/SRI over the last year, one of the themes that has come up is that of leadership behavior and domestic politics in relation to regional influences. Specifically, to what extent can leadership behavior, particularly on domestic policy issues, be traced to, or explained by, the regional backgrounds and commitments of individuals? Is political behavior influenced by a local "constituency" or specialized local needs or interests?

3. The chief interest of the geographer is probably the reverse question. To what extent can the investment priorities for a region be traced to the status or influence of a particular individual within the political hierarchy rather than to some more "rational" economic or environmental consideration? Are some areas of the USSR "more equal than others" in investment priorities, and if so, why? Does the Russian Republic get more than its share of the pie in industrial investment, land amelioration projects, or residential construction? Are there current examples to compare with the construction of the high cost steel mill at Rustavi in Georgia during Stalin's day?

4. We could suggest in our invitation that participants come prepared to a) comment on the theme -- its validity or worthiness of further serious consideration, b) add empirical data and cite cases in point pro or con; c) suggest research approaches.

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78-05927A000300190013-3

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78-05927A000300190013-3